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Building Committee Minutes 02-11-2003

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
 MINUTES
 REGULAR MEETING
 PERMANENT TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2003**

PRESENT:	John Cole, Chairman	Kathleen Donovan
	William Shea, Vice Chairman	Suzanne Owayda
ABSENT:	Thomas Caccavaro	Robert Juusola
	Teresa DeBenedictis	Charles Stretton
	Nancy Galkowski	

Please note the absence of a quorum.

PARTICIPANTS: David Kale, Arlington Public Schools
 Alan Brown, Principal - Stratton School
 Michael McCabe, Principal – Thompson School
 Joseph Drown & Bob Bell – Design Partnership of Cambridge, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:45 p.m.

SBA – STATUS OF CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Donovan distributed a copy of today's memo from the Commissioner of Education with regard to the School Building Assistance Program and the status of the current applications. This will have certain ramifications for the Thompson and Stratton projects.

- With the state's current budget situation, few (if any) new grants will be awarded in the next few years. The Governor is reviewing the overall structure of the SBA program.
- The Commissioner has imposed a moratorium on any further review or approval of pending school construction applications through the end of this fiscal year. Reevaluation of the situation will take place after the FY04 state budget is enacted.
- Previously approved school projects already on the waiting list may begin construction. However, districts who choose to do so must keep in mind that placement on the waiting list is no longer a guarantee of state funding.

STRATTON & THOMPSON REVIEW – DPC

- Referring to the comparison sheet distributed to the committee at a previous meeting that depicted the Dallin classroom sizes as below 900 s.f., Mr. Drown said that they checked with DRA directly and found that the readings on the boards used by DPC were not accurate. Dallin classroom sizes were within SBA specifications of 900 s.f.
- The architects are currently focusing on the programs for each school project. Mr. Bell reviewed reductions the architects had made in certain areas. Noting that the Thompson was still 10% larger than the other completed school projects, Mr. Shea urged the architects to go forward with the reductions and continue efforts to reduce the size another few thousand feet for a total of 7 1/2% from the original square footage number.
- There was discussion of the following hand-outs:
 - o Cost Summary for Building Planning Options
 - o Site diagrams
 - o Concept Plans
- After some discussion of the plans, the architect was advised that the consensus of the committee favored the new two-story concept for the Thompson School project. In addition, the new two-story concept was favored for the Stratton School.
- Suzanne Owayda will represent the PTBC at the Dallin School construction meeting tomorrow night.
- The architect will continue to review and revise the school programs and school sizes and will provide the committee with new diagrams at its meeting on February 25th.
- The committee will authorize the architect to get survey work done. Mr. Shea will call J. Peloquin tomorrow to clarify the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Carroll